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Chamber Hears School Proposals

By KAYLENE NELSEN
Herald Staff Writer

Provo Superintendent John Bennion presented the career ladder concept part of a Utah Education reform package to the Provo Chamber of Commerce board of directors Wednesday afternoon, but the chamber put off voting support for the reform ideas.

Bennion primarily discussed the career ladder ideas that Provo School District has formulated and said it could well be the answer to the problem of making education a more attractive profession.

The Provo plan covers three areas: lengthening the teaching contract, beginning teachers and professional teachers. The plan calls for making the contracts 192 days, 11 days longer than the present Provo contract.

The beginning teachers would be assisted, supervised and evaluated by teacher leaders for up to three years before becoming a professional teacher. Once a professional teacher, the teacher has the options of only teaching, adding more responsibilities in areas of improving teaching or becoming a teacher leader while also remain-

ing in the classroom.

Bennion said the key to the system is that it allows the teacher the opportunity to advance without leaving the classroom. Forty percent of the teach-

merit pay.

"Merit pay doesn't have any advancement," he said. Although the system does have some merit elements, it provides more inspiration for productivity.



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John Bennion

ers could be helping and another 10 percent teaching leaders.

Chamber members expressed concern about the evaluation part of the plan and Bennion assured them that "there is a greater commitment to evaluation up and down the line." He said the concept actually allows the district more control over firing poor teachers because the plan has so much documentation built into it.

Bennion refuted the idea that career ladder is just another

A survey of Provo teachers showed 81 percent favor the plan. "Provo teachers are ready to go," Bennion said.

Funding of the plan was also a concern of chamber members Wednesday. Bennion said the funding will have to come from the state level where the legislature can chose to fund for the entire state, fund some of the districts or pilot a couple of districts. "Provo is very ready to be a pilot district," he added.

Bennion said the year round school idea will help make higher taxes a more palatable idea because the year-round concept increases utilization at least 25 percent, thus decreasing the need to build. Various chamber members expressed concern that the public will not want higher taxes for teacher raises without knowing the schools are trying to conserve elsewhere. Provo will pilot the first year-round school program in the state next year.

Following through with the reform plan will raise Utah from 49th in the nation to 45th, Bennion claims. "I don't think we can expect high quality education at bargain basement prices," he said. "So many people want the services but don't want to pay for it."

The Chamber of Commerce board of directors will meet again Jan. 4 to discuss the matter and determine a stand on the issue.

The directors also approved an endorsement of breaching the causeway in the Great Salt Lake and dredging the Jordan River to help control flooding in Utah County next spring.

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Two Billion Cards Give Greetings For Holiday 1983

By KAYLENE NELSEN AND
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Ten years ago, if someone sent his true love a card depicting the 12 days of Christmas, chances are the card would have been a wild menagerie of bold, bright colors with the elements of the song depicted, including all the swans a swimming and lords a leaping.

Today a 12 days of Christmas card would be simpler, more sophisticated — perhaps a bird sitting on a twig with two tiny pears.

Such a card demonstrates the changing nature of holiday cards. They are a reflection of economic status, consumer tastes and lifestyles, says Ann Bradford, a representative of American Greeting Cards in Cleveland, Ohio, who interviewed with The Herald this week.

Christmas greeting cards are as much a part of Christmas as the trees, holly and mistletoe. The proof is in the two billion cards that are being sent this season, says Hallmark Cards.

Like everything else, the look of Christmas cards change.

traditional cards. Many of those are inspirational in the light religious vein. One Hallmark card, for instance, shows a soft menagerie of animals looking at a shining star. Inside the verse reads, "Wishing you all the beauty and wonder of Christmas."

Local card shops report that almost everything in stock is selling. Musical cards, costing



Christmas Spirit

a whopping seven dollars each, have been a big item, according to Darren Baird, manager of Larsen's Hallmark in Orem. He ran out of the cards several days ago and still is receiving requests. Even the main headquarters doesn't have any to send.

The musical cards have a computer chip inside that plays Christmas tunes. Baird said the chips alone have been available for customers to attach to their own cards.

Sauna Hill, manager of



There are many ways to say 'Happy Holidays'—